WHISTLE!

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

Story & Art by

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volume 9

WHISTLE!™

Vol. 9
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MAKE IT OVER THERE!!

GOT IT...

SSHH

IT'S HEADING FOR THE DEFENDER!

IT'S SHORT!

STAGE.72 The One Who Goes Forward

TSK.

BUP

STAGGER

DARN IT.

AGH.

SWOOSH

WUMP

WH

IS

CH

UK

!

AHH.

JOSUI LOST A PRECIOUS SHOT ON GOAL!

SHUPP

FOOM

TOO BAD!

SHI

AP

TATSUYA!

SKK

SSS

YUP!

JOSU

JOSU

GGGHHH

AND THEY'RE AGGRESSIVE- PUTTING THE LONG BALL STRAIGHT INTO THE GOAL BOX!

FUMP

RAKUYŌ IS CONTROLLING THE PACE.

8

YOU STINK AT THIS!

JOSU

JOSU

NOT THAT I'M ANY BETTER.

NOT THAT ...

I'LL RUN IT DOWN... WHENEVER I HAVE TO.

IF YOU GET INTO TROUBLE ...

...JUST KICK THE BALL TO ME.

TUMP

POOT

LOOKS LIKE RAKUYŌ PREPARED FOR THE WEATHER.

CHASING THE LONG BALL IS A LOGICAL CHOICE FOR A RAINY DAY STRATEGY.

A NICE CLEARANCE BY NO. 4!

SPLUSH

JOSUI

ANOTHER LONG BALL.

TOOMP

ANOTHER PLAYER IS FOLLOWING!

SPLUT

BLIP

DON'T FORGET THAT.

NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE POSITIONED, YOU NEED TO MOVE FORWARD.

WHOOSH

WATCH OUT!

FUMP

IF I DRIBBLE, THE BALL GETS BOGGED DOWN. IT WON'T ROLL ON THIS MUSHY GROUND.

ARGH.

SKID

THAT'S WHY RAKUYŌ IS USING THE LONG BALL...

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TO PLAY THE GAME *YOUR* WAY.

BECAUSE OF THE FIELD CONDITIONS, TATSUYA'S PASS WON'T BE EFFECTIVE. BUT THAT'S JUST PART OF IT.

TO BE TOTALLY HONEST, I SWITCHED YOU GUYS TO CONFUSE THE OPPONENT.

I DIDN'T MAKE YOU A MID-FIELDER BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO PLAY LIKE TATSUYA.

SHŌ...

HE MADE IT PAST TWO DEFENDERS!

DASH

THU MP

SHOULD I SEND IT BACK?

THAT'S NO GOOD. I MAY ESCAPE ONE DEFENDER, BUT ANOTHER WILL STEAL THE BALL.

TRAP THE BALL AND SEND IT TO THE FRONT?

MOVE FORWARD!

BIP

DASH

AHH! DIDN'T MAKE IT!!

OT IT.

SPUTTER

KOOM

NO. 9 SHOOTS !!

NOT SO FAST!

ATTACK!

SHŌ

1

OOF

SHU

RRR

WHA --?

SHŌ.

AND FOLLOWED THE SHOT?

HE KNEW IT WAS SHORT.

THAT KID IS TOUGH!

SHŌ!

ARRRR.

GO!!

GO

SKRRR

WHOA.

SHOOM

WOOM

STAGE.73
Josui Team, the Ascending Current

FWU

UPPP

THAT'S WHY HE DROPPED THE BALL RIGHT N FRONT OF THE GOAL TO SHOOT

PASSING WON'T WORK AND THE DRIBBLING IS RISKY.

... HOW DID HE DO THAT?

OKAY

I WANNA PLAY

LIKE HE DOES

I...

SHOCKS US EVERY NOW AND THEN. DOESN'T HE?

TATSU

AH. THANKS

I'M STUCK

HM? HM?

RUSTLE RUSTLE

BUT, UH, NOT LIKE THAT.

GOAL!!

FIFTEEN MINUTES INTO THE SECOND HALF, JOSUI HAS TIED THE GAME

WAA!

...IS SOME-THING.

THAT'S AWESOME SHŌ

THAT NO. 9 ...

WHAT? TOO COOL TO CELEBRATE?

SHŌ!!!!!

WE'RE STILL PLAYING A MATCH

ENOUGH!

WHOA

KA THUMP

FWP

SO THEY CAUGHT UP? JUST GO SCORE MORE GOALS.

YES, SIR!

YOU GUYS, IT'S GUT CHECK TIME!

HUMPH!

SORRY

VIP

I CAN SCRAP FOR THE BALL WHEN I HAVE TO.

SHUT UP.

SWACK

SMIRK SMIRK

NEVER SEEN YOU DOWN IN THE MUD BEFORE.

BECAUSE THE GROUND IS SLOP...

I'M BEGINNING TO GET IT

DANG!

FUMP

IT'S BETTER TO KEEP THE BALL ALOFT

...AND USE THE LONG BALL WHEN I CAN.

WHEN IT'S NOT TOUCHING THE GROUND

IT'S EASIER TO HANDLE THE BALL

AND ...

BUP

BUP

SNORT

BOW

NO. 9 WAS FLOUNDERING 'TIL NOW

BIP

THEIR POSITION CHANGE JUST THREW US OFF, THAT'S ALL WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

THAT WAS JUST LUCK

DON'T LET THESE LOSERS BEAT YOU!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

AND HE'S JUST A KID IN JUNIOR HIGH.

EVEN PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS HAVE TROUBLE ADJUSTING TO A POSITION CHANGE

THUNK

SLIP

GO TO THE BALL

WHOOSH

DASH

DASH

DASH

DASH

SPLISH

HAVING FUN

LOOKS LIKE EVERY ONE'S

TOO OMP

NEAR MISS!

BANG

SPLACK

SPLUSH

WAITING FOR THE BALL TO COME..

INSTEAD OF

SLISH

SPLAT

RAKUYŌ JOSUI

BIG BLUNDER ON MY PART.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST BROUGHT MY REGULAR CLEATS ON A RAINY DAY.

...RAKUYŌ'S PLAYERS LOOK STRESSED

AS IF THEY'RE GETTING IMPATIENT.

AT THE SAME TIME.

WHAT?

YOUR SPIKES ARE STILL OKAY, RIGHT?

SHŌ.

YOU IDIOTS! SCUM!

WHY CAN'T YOU PLAY THE WAY I TAUGHT YOU?!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

. .EVEN IF YOU'RE ALONE, TAKE THE SHOT.

WHEN THERE'S A CHANCE

WHAT?

NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.

MINE ARE CLOTTED WITH MUD, AND I'M LOSING GRIP. I BET IT'S THE SAME WITH THE OTHERS.

YEAH.

HE'S STARTING TO LOSE IT

GLARE

BOOMP

SPLISH

TUMP

DRIBBLE

AHH!

FUMP

WHOOSH

OKAY!

CORNER KICK FOR RAKUYŌ!

IT'S THE R BIG CHANCE!

THAT'S WHAT WE EXPECT FROM NO. 9.

TRAP

TRAP

NO, YOU DON'T!

WUMP

WUMP

BOOP

NO! HE KEPT IT IN!!

SIDE OUT!

SHOOP

ALL RIGHT!

DARN

TOO

SHŌ!

JOLT

TWITCH

BOOM

GHUU

HK

STAGGER

GRIP

WHISTLE!

NO! HE'S NOT DOWN! HE'S STILL GOING!!

DASH

STAGE.74 The Bitter Memory

NO. 9 WAS TACKLED FROM BEHIND AND FELL...

SHŌ!

SGHHH

...AT ONE TO ZERO. MUSASHINOMORI WAS LEADING BY A GOAL. IN THE SECOND HALF WE HAD FIVE MINUTES LEFT

A CORNER KICK. MY SPECIALTY.

IT WAS THE CHANCE TO TIE

TO DEFEAT POWERFUL MUSASHINOMORI!

FOOM

WE STILL HAD A CHANCE TO WIN!

WE THOUGHT WE'D USE THE SET PLAY TO SCORE!

RUSH

SGHHH

SGHHH

THAT DAY...

JUST LIKE MUSASHI-NOMORI

TOOMP

SEIJI!

AHH!

WHEN DID HE GET THERE?

AH!

WHAT ?!

SWAPP

IT STOPPED?! IT'S STUCK IN THE MUD!

THE BALL... !!

TU

MP

TU

MP

TUMP

TUMP

WHA--?!

THEN THEY TOOK POSSESSION, AND WE LOST

IF ONLY IT HADN'T BEEN RAINING!

SO THAT NEXT TIME WE WOULD DEFEAT MUSASHI-NOMORI!

THAT'S WHY WE PRACTICED SO HARD IN THE RAIN

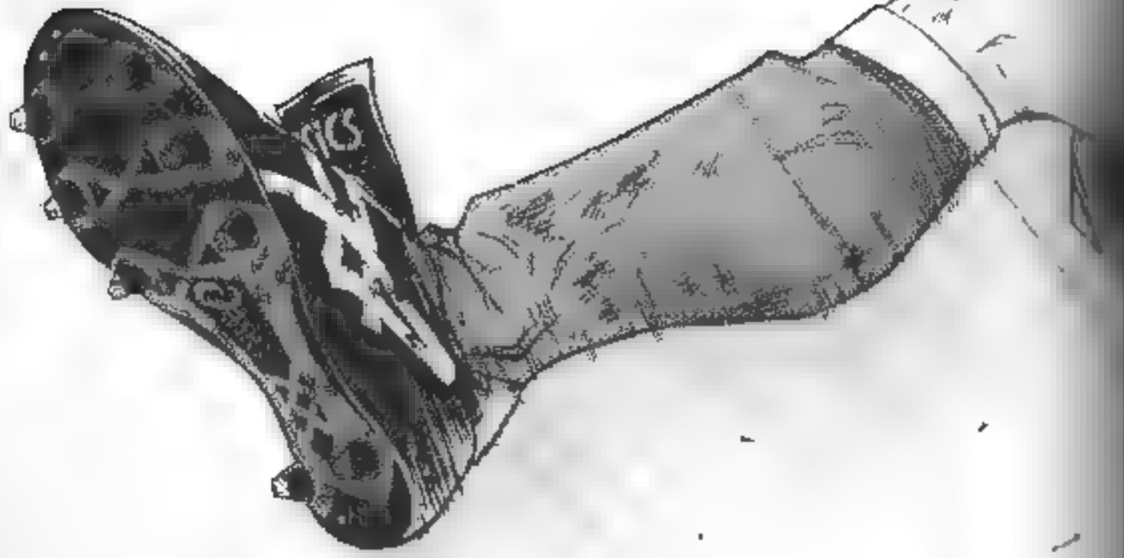
NO WAY...

...WILL I LET YOU GO!

SHOOM

I'LL CATCH UP AND STRIP THE BALL.

IT'S USELESS TO DRIBBLE IN THE MUD.



SHŌ ...

DOES HE MEAN TO TAKE IT ALL THE WAY IN?

WHAT A KID!

WOW!

HE'S JUGGLING THE BALL ?!

WHAT?!

PUNK

SHOW BOAT

HOW FAR CAN HE GO LIKE THAT?

THAT'S RIGHT HE WAS GOOD AT JUGGLING. WASN'T HE?

HE'S KEEPING IT IN THE AIR!

INCREDIBLE !!

IT'S ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE KEEPER! AND THE KEEPER IS CHARGING THE BALL!

THUMP

HE'S MOVING IT ALL THE WAY UP FIELD BY JUGGLING!

OH MY!

TU MP

STOP HIM!!

STOP HIM!

HE'S JUST A SINGLE PLAYER?!

WHOOSH

SKRRSH

AHH.

ACK

TOO...

TOO BAD!!

OOOHHH

ALMOST! IT TOOK SOME AMAZING PLAY TO BRING THE BALL THAT FAR DOWNFIELD.

NO GOAL! THE BALL HASN'T GONE OVER THE LINE!

WHO THE HECK IS HE ..?

WH...

SLUMP

SWISH

GO...

NO.

SSH

JOLT

DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT!

I DON'T CARE ANY-MORE!

THWUMP

FWUMP

I BET YOU'LL MAKE IT THE NEXT TIME!

GULP!

SLAP

PUNCH

THAT WAS SWEET !!

RATTLE RATTLE

AHEM.

MMMPH

DON'T LAUGH.

YOU SHOULDN'T EITHER

NOT HIM...

I CAN'T BEAT HIM!

HACK

WHAT WAS THAT?! YOU IDIOTS! DO YOU HAVE THE WILL TO WIN OR WHAT?

..IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS ENOUGH TO WIPE OUT RAKUYŌ'S FIGHTING SPIRIT.

EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T SCORE...

TWITCH

TWITCH

SHHHH

JUT

DOI!!

FOOMP

WE'RE GONNA WIN!

!

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP.

YEAH.

THE MOMENTUM HAS SHIFTED.

FGSHHH

OUR GOAL IS TO BEAT MUSASHI-NOMORI!

WE CAN'T LOSE THIS EARLY!

WE NEED TO REACH THE FINALS!

GRIP

IT'S NOT OVER YET.

GRIND

TOOMP

MUSASHINOMORI

BEAT MUSASHI-NOMORI

STAGE.75

Attacking and Defending at the End

SHOO

OOM

SHIGE-MATSU!

OH YEAH!

WE'RE GONNA...

...WIN THIS GAME!!

ISHI-MARU!

HM.

AOYA-GI!

YES!

ITO!

YUP

MAEDA!

YEAH!

READY!

KO-KUBU!

YUP!

KU-RITA!

YES!

IDE!

TOYAMA!

HUAH!

AND WE'RE GONNA MOVE ON TO DEFEAT MUSASHI-NOMORI!

VO

OM

KAJI-MURA ...

SPLUTT

DASH

SHOOM

DASH

DASH

FROM 5 O'CLOCK

WAIT KAORU.

SHOOM

DASH

THAT'S RIGHT!

FOOM

SHV

ATTACK

!

YES!

HIRO-YOSHI, THE FOLLOW-UP!

YES!

IF THAT'S THE CASE,

HERE IT COMES.

ZOOP

TSK.

POUNCE

REACH

GASP!

YES!

FOOSH

FUMP

A SECOND SHOT!

DAI-CHI!

WHOOSH

AHH!

SW

HP

HE CAME ALL THE WAY DOWNFIELD AND CLEARED THE SHOT WITH A BICYCLE KICK!!

C'MON...

...

NOW!

IT'S JOSUI'S NO. 11!

WHOOSH

TWEE TWEE TWEE

ONE TO ONE

SINCE IT'S A TIE, THERE'S A FIVE-MINUTE REST..

...THEN WE'LL ENTER EXTENDED TIME WITH TWO FIVE-MINUTE HALVES

THAT'S IT FOR REGULATION TIME!

SLAP

NO WORRIES BUY ME SOME FOOD. AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN

I OWE YOU ONE NOW.

I GUESS THEY CAN'T END IN A TIE

IT'S A TOURNAMENT AFTER ALL.

I WISH THEY COULD BOTH WIN THEY'RE TRYING SO HARD.

NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY PUSH THEMSELVES, IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO WIN. THAT'S THE HARSH REALITY.

SOCCER REQUIRES PLAYERS TO HAVE IMAGINATIONS.

IN THE END, WHAT DECIDES THE WINNER IS ..

ARRGH. I DO! I DO!

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

KURITA! DO YOU HAVE THE WILL TO WIN OR WHAT?!

JOSUI IS TOUGH. WE'D BETTER ACKNOW-LEDGE THAT FACT.

. WE'VE GOT TO DEFEAT JOSUI FIRST.

OUR GOAL IS TO DEFEAT MUSASHI-NOMORI, BUT

SHOVE

I'VE GOT THE WILL TO WIN, BUT I'M ANALYZING THE OPPONENT WITH A COOL HEAD!

I'M NOT SAYING WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE. JUST REMEMBER WHAT WE'VE PRACTICED!

HEY DON'T GET ALL DEPRESSED!

THAT'S RIGHT!

YOU'RE RIGHT.

GRUMBLE

PEEK

PEEK

WE NEED TO KEEP PLAYING THAT WAY IN THE EXTENDED GAME.

AWE-SOME PLAY AT THE END OF THE SECOND HALF!

IT WON'T BE EASY.

JUST ONE GOAL. THAT'S ALL WE NEED.

...TALENT.

OSU!

IF ANYONE NEEDS A MASSAGE, LET ME KNOW.

DOES ANYONE STILL NEED A DRINK? WE'VE GOT SOME SALT TABLETS, TOO.

YOU'VE GOT FIVE MINUTES! GET THOSE CLEATS CLEAN.

HIS BONE STRUCTURE IS BETTER THAN IT APPEARS, AND HIS MUSCLES ARE FLEXIBLE.

COACH.

LET ME DO THAT FOR YOU

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN.

HUH?

YOU'RE WEARING A DOPEY GRIN.

YOU LOOK ODDLY HAPPY, SHŌ.

OUCH.

THE RELENTLESS PRACTICES ON THE RAINY DAYS.

WHEN IT WASN'T RAINING, WE USED HOSES. REMEMBER THAT?

...ON RAINY DAYS!

WE'RE STRONG

. WE LEARNED HOW TO PLAY IN THE RAIN!

EVEN THOUGH IT RUINED THE GRASS AND PEOPLE LAUGHED AT US . .

...
MASATO.

I'M LOCKED AND LOADED, COACH.

NOW...

ALL RIGHT!

LEAVE IT TO ME

BECAUSE OF THE RAIN, THE TEAM'S USED UP THEIR STAMINA MORE THAN USUAL. I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

HM? THAT MAN...

JOSUI WILL REPLACE NO. 6 WITH NO. 12.

...I KEPT YOU WAITING...

...SOME-HOW...I 'SPOSE I'M WE RD ..

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE GOING INTO EXTENDED TIME...

I CAN'T HOLD BACK THE EXCITEMENT I FEEL!

I'M HAPPY THAT THE GAME ISN'T ENDING...

...AND IT GETS ME FIRED UP.

THANKS, COACH.

ALL RIGHT YER GOOD

IS THAT RIGHT?

YES, SIR!

GET FOCUSED! JOSUI...

...FIGHT !!

TWEEE

VICTORY !!

STOMP

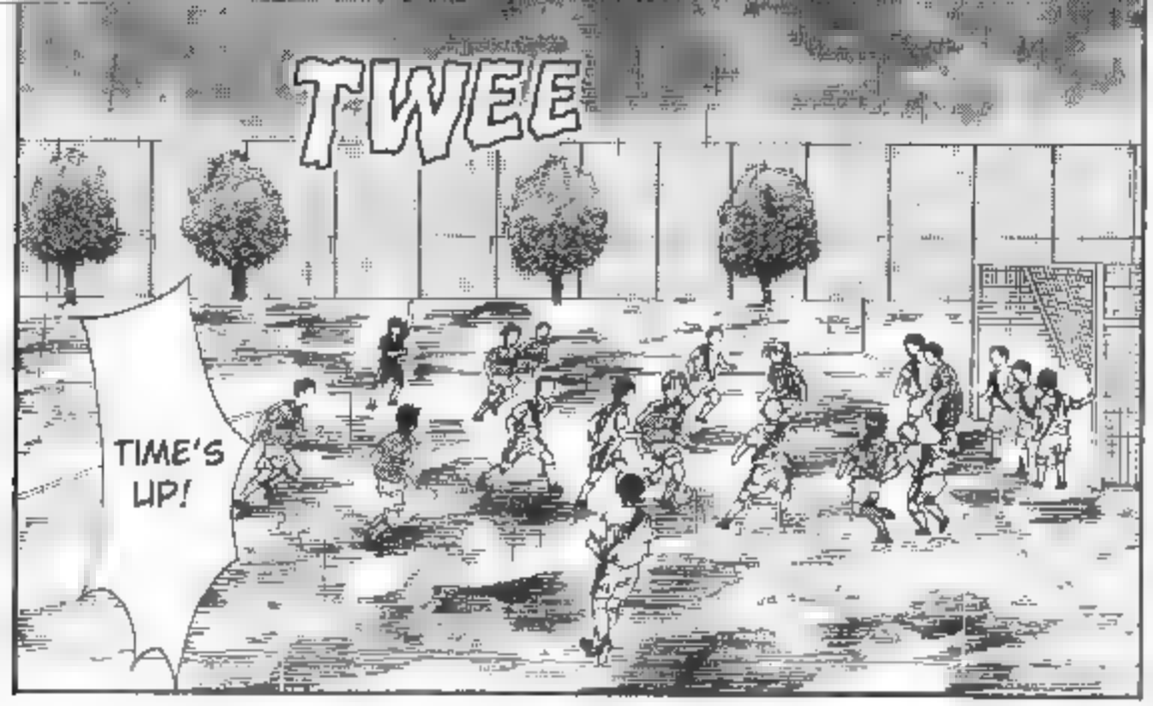
RAKUYŌ!

GSHHHH

START EXTENDED TIME!

DO YOUR BEST.

SNORT



STAGE.76 Josui Team Unites (NOBODY IS PERFECT)

BRUTAL! EVEN THOUGH WE ATTACKED WITH EVERY-THING WE HAD WE COULDN'T SCORE
HUFF
ONE TO ONE IN REGULATION.
EXTENDED TIME. ZERO TO ZERO
SINCE IT'S STILL A TIE...

. MATSUSHITA ANTICIPATED THAT THEY'D END UP WITH AN EXTENDED GAME AND READIED A FRESH PLAYER.

RAKUYŌ'S COACH. ALL HE DID WAS YELL DURING THE GAME IN CONTRAST

GOOD JOB.

IT DIDN'T RESULT IN A GOAL, BUT THAT WAS ONLY BECAUSE RAKUYŌ THREW EVERYONE INTO ITS DEFENSE.

THE QUICK ATTACK FROM THE SIDE, WHERE THE GROUND WASN'T ROUGH, WAS GREAT

...ANOTHER THING THAT SURPRISES ME IS JOSUI'S KIDS.

AND

HE WAS A FIRST-CLASS PLAYER. SEEMS LIKE HIS TALENT AS A COACH IS EXCEPTIONAL TOO.

...WE'LL GO TO PENALTY KICKS TO DETERMINE THE WINNER!

EACH TEAM CHOOSES FIVE PLAYERS TO TAKE PENALTY KICKS. THE TEAM WHO SCORES THE MOST GOALS WINS. IF THEY'RE STILL TIED AFTER ALL THE PENALTY KICKS, THEY GO TO A SUDDEN-DEATH ROUND

PENALTY KICKS?

DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND MATSUSHITA OF *SHINKAWA DENKŌ COACHING JOSUI.

WHAT A SURPRISE

*SEE WHISTLE VOL. 4

YOU'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND THE BEAUTY OF OUR TEAM!

TRUE ENOUGH.

BUT EVERYONE PLAYED JUST AS WELL AS USUAL

EXCUSE ME FOR SAYING SO, COACH..

WHEN WE PLAYED AGAINST JOSUI BEFORE I SCOLDED MY GUYS... CALLED THEM PATHETIC, BUT

...KATSURŌ WAS RIGHT. JOSUI COULD CHALLENGE MUSASHI-NOMORI.

...I WAS MISTAKEN THIS TIME.

IT LOOKS LIKE...

IF YOU CAN'T CAPITALIZE ON THOSE PRECIOUS CHANCES, AN OPPONENT WILL STEAL THE GAME

..JOSUI HAD MANY CHANCES AND FAILED TO SCORE

I WONDER HOW THE PRESSURE WILL AFFECT THEIR PENALTY KICKS

JOSUI COULDN'T WIN SO THEY'LL FEEL MORE PRESSURE THAN RAKUYŌ, WHICH HELD TIGHT

I ADMIT THAT TATSUYA.

BUT..

SHF

IN THE SECOND HALF, INSTEAD OF SHOWING THEIR EXHAUSTION, THEY GOT EVEN BETTER.

EACH OF THEM FIGURED OUT HOW TO PLAY IN THE RAIN.

SHOO

THEY EVOLVED...

...IN A SINGLE GAME.

ALL RIGHT.. SHŌ, YŪSUKE, SHIGEKI, MASATO, THEN ME. THAT'S THE ORDER.

OKAY.

KEEP IN MIND THAT WE MAY GO TO SUDDEN DEATH, SO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'LL DO. I'LL GO SEE THE REF.

THE OLD MAN? WHY IS HE HERE?

MOM, TOO?!

AND TATSUYA'S MOM, TOO

COACH KIRIHARA.

?

TATSUYA?

SKRJPP

STARE

DID WE?

YUP! YOU WERE SO GOOD THAT I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME

THE FIRST TIME YOU PLAYED SOCCER WITH ME, WE SHOT PENALTIES.

I'M GOOD AT CALCULATING PROBABILITIES.

DON'T WORRY.

WHAT A FREAK.

. WE COULD STILL POTENTIALLY LOSE.

NOD

EVEN IF I ONLY MISS ONE OUT OF TEN THOUSAND

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, DAICHI!

REALLY? OKAY, I'LL TRUST YOU!

OF COURSE NOT.

NO.

I'M SORRY, BUT DO YOU MIND F I K CK FIRST?

YOU CAN DO IT!

I M SURE TATSUYA CAN PULL IT OFF

TATSUYA

I WILL NOT LOSE!

YEAH!

LET'S DO THIS!

FOR THE *WIN!*

DID HE COME TO LAUGH AT ME?

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE? THAT TYRANT!

WHAT'S MOM DOING THERE? WHAT'S SHE TH NK NG, STANDING BESIDE THAT JERK?!

TATSUYA.

JOLT

IF I GET UPSET NOW, I'LL BE DOING EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS ME TO!

CA.M DOWN!

I'M FINE.

YOU OKAY?

SHŌ ..

	Josui	Rakuyō
①	Mizuno	Kurita
②	Kazamatsuri	Ide
③	Morinaga	Kajimura
④	Sato	Shigematsu
⑤	Takai	Ishimaru

...NO MATTER WHAT!

I'LL MAKE IT...

YEAH!

LET'S GO FOR THE THROAT! NO FEAR!

THE MOMENTUM IS WITH US.

WE'VE HAD MANY NARROW ESCAPES.

SAKURA JOSUI WILL KICK FIRST

THERE'S TOO MUCH LUCK INVOLVED IN PENALTY KICKS I DON'T LIKE THAT

A LONG GAME IN THE RAIN, AND NOW PENALTY KICKS. THEY MUST BE WIPED OUT.

WU. UP

FOOT

MP

AH.

AND RUB MY OLD MAN'S NOSE IN IT, TOO.

I'M THE ACE, AND I'LL INTIMIDATE THEM WITH A QUICK GOAL.

HE'LL GO FOR THE LEFT SIDE OF THE GOAL.

THUMP

HE'S A LEFTY.

THUMP

I WILL WIN!

EXHALE

THUMP

EXHALE

EXHALE

THUMP

NOT GOOD.. HE LOOKS TENSE.

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

HE TOTALLY READ THE KEEPER'S STRATEGY!

GO IN...

WHOA!

A BANANA KICK ?!

HE CURVED IT!!

THAT'S TOUGH. HE JUST PUSHED THE PLACEMENT A BT TOO HARD.

SOUI-CHIRO.

DON'T WORRY.

TATSUYA

I...

EVERYONE, I'M SORRY!

I...

THUD

I M.SSED .

I M SSED?

SPA

INK

!

TATSUYA

HIS STAMINA IS GONE. HE DIDN'T PLANT HIS FOOT F RMLY ENOuGH.

YES! IT MISSED!

WOO

AH.

SLUMP

NO SWEAT. WE'RE STILL IN IT

BAD BREAK.

SORRY ABOUT THAT

AHH.

MISS IT, LOSER! MISS IT!

WHY DID I THINK I HAD TO DO IT ALL MYSELF?

THIS MIGHT MAKE YOU UPSET, BUT...

MY CONTRIBUTION S THE SAME AS ANYONE ELSE'S.

.. I'M JUST ONE PLAYER WITH ONE SHOT RIGHT NOW

IN A REGULAR GAME, I'M CONFIDENT I CAN PLAY THREE TIMES AS [redacted] OTHERS, BUT..

EVEN IF I FAIL, WE STILL HAVE FOUR MORE SHOTS

MUTER

EACH RAKUYŌ PLAYER HAS HABITS

MUTER

DO YOUR BEST!

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, DAICHI!

FOREIGN PLAYERS DO THIS. SO IT MUST WORK

MOM, WE'LL WIN THE GAME FOR YOU.

OKAY

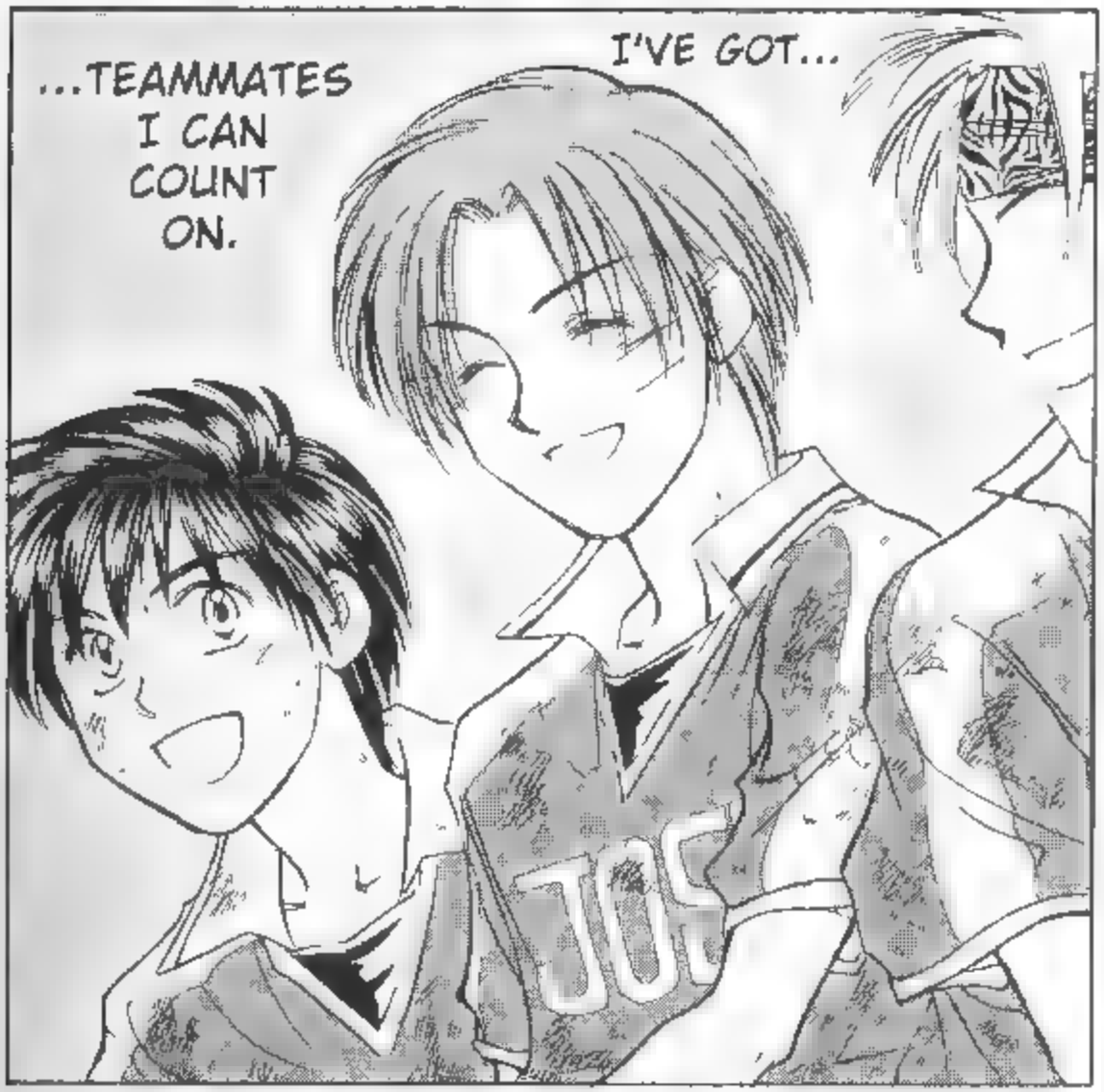
.. THE OPPONENT'S KEEPER IS WEAK GOING TO THE LEFT

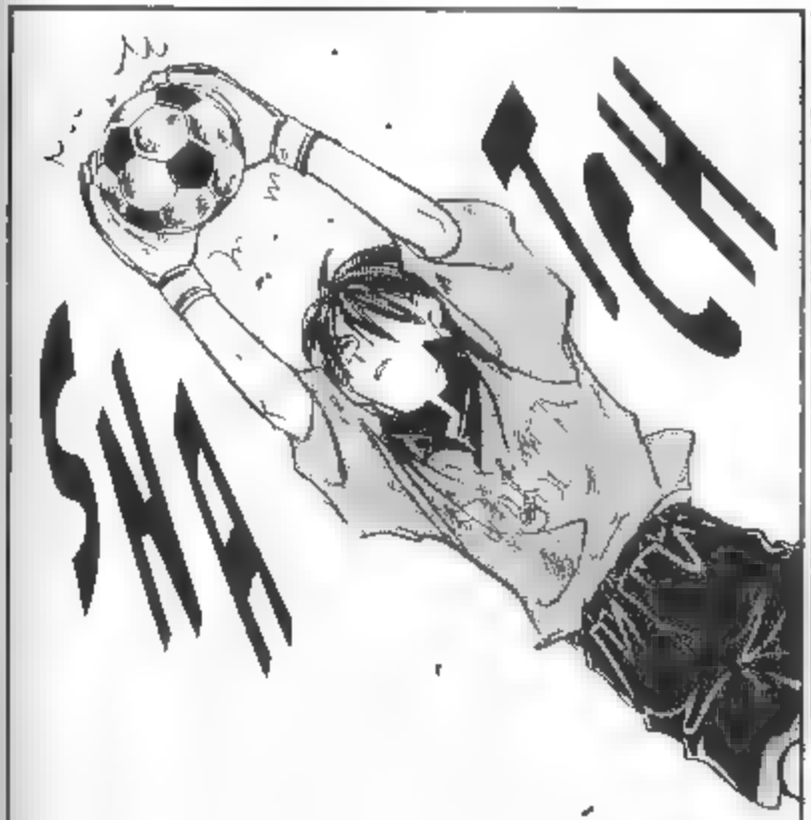
ACCORDING TO HONMA'S NOTES FROM LAST YEAR

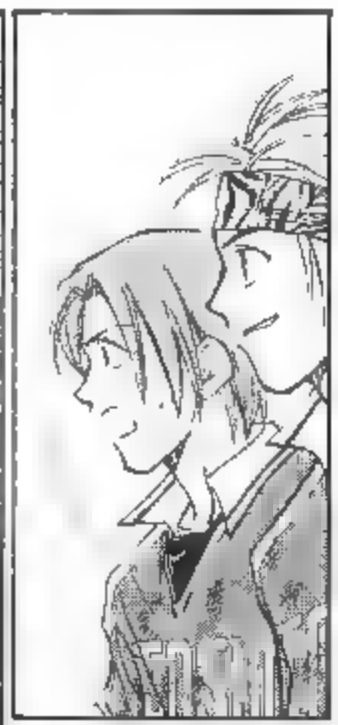
SNAP OUT OF T. YOU'RE BLOCKING THE WAY.

WHY ARE YOU STANDING THERE LIKE A ZOMBIE?

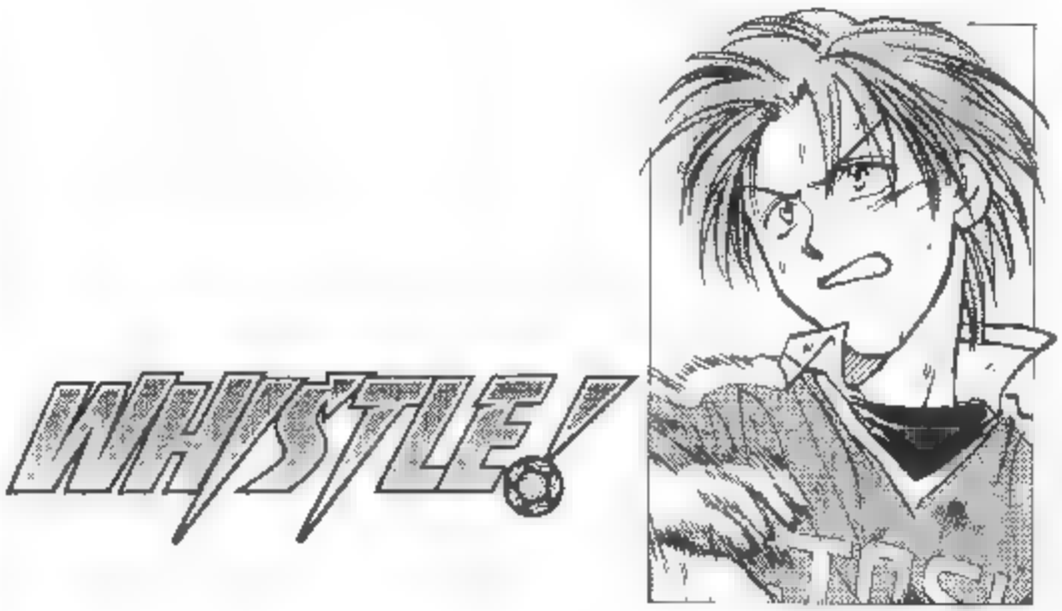
READ THIS WAY







Josui – Rakuyō
① Mizuno ✕ Kurita ✕
② Kazamatsuri Ide
③ Morinaga Kajimura
④ Sato Shigematsu
⑤ Takai Ishimaru
STAGE.77
Heated Penalty Match
SHŌ'S TAKING HIS TIME, ISN'T HE?


WHISTLE!

WHAT IF I MISS?

IT'S BECAUSE I SEE COACH KIRIHARA WATCHING US.

I WAS ABLE TO RELAX UNTIL I CAME UP TO STAND HERE. NOW, I'M NERVOUS AND STIFF.

IF WE LOSE, WOULD COACH KIRIHARA FIGHT TO PULL HIM OFF OUR TEAM?

IF WE END UP LOSING THIS GAME, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO TATSUYA?

I CAN'T FAIL! WE MUST WIN THIS GAME... ***NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!!***

. SOMETIMES HE HESITATES FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER. SOMETIMES HE CAN'T CHOOSE.

WHEN HE MAKES A DECISION, HE CAN MAKE IT EXTREMELY FAST, BUT...

BAD HABIT?

HIS BAD HABIT MIGHT SURFACE AGAIN.

HE TRIES TO THINK THROUGH EVERY-THING.

HE CAN'T MAKE UP HIS MIND?

UMM... UMM

FOR INSTANCE, HE HAS TROUBLE CHOOSING WHAT TO EAT AT A RESTAURANT

GLANCE

I HAVE A FEELING IT'S THE SAME SITUATION RIGHT NOW

WHEN HE HESITATES, IT'S BECAUSE HE'S THINKING ABOUT OTHERS.

LIKE, HOW MUCH IT COSTS, CAUSE I HAVE TO PAY FOR IT

BOO LUN GET OMD

WHA --?

THWACK

YES!

AGH!

MY BET WAS *RIGHT ON!*

HE DID IT! AWE-SOME!

IS HE TRYING TO "ICE" ME? GET MY TIMING OUT OF WHACK?

COME ON! WHAT'S THAT LITTLE GUY DOING?

YOU'RE TAKING TOO LONG. PLEASE TAKE YOUR KICK.

YES, SORRY

I NEED TO FOCUS, OR MY KICK WILL HAVE NO POWER.

DON'T HESITATE!

NO FEAR! IF I LET HIM MESS WITH MY HEAD, THAT'S THE END

I WON'T LET THAT WORK.

I'LL TARGET..

I MUST THINK ONLY ABOUT MAKING THE SHOT!

WHEN HE GOES N MOTION. .

OKAY! THAT'S IT, HE S GOING LEFT!

WHOOSH

TO THE RIGHT!

I'LL DIVE!

TWITCH

ALL RIGHT!

PUSH

I SHOULD'VE USED A FEINT I'VE GOT T NOW

WHAT'S WRONG?

STOMP STOMP STOMP

IT'S LOOKING GOOD.

EXCEL-LENT!

DO YOUR BEST, YŪSUKE!

AFTER TWO TEAMMATES FAILED AND THE OPPONENT TOOK THE LEAD, HE MUST BE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE.

...DO WHAT I CAN. TAKE A CHANCE.

THAT'S WHY I WILL .

SHIGEKI WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT AND. WE'VE GOT MASATO TOO

EVEN IF I FAIL...

YO, DAICHI, YOU THE *MAN!*

YOU IDIOT. IT'S BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO GET ALL FANCY.

I'M SORRY, EVERY-ONE.

I'M SURE DAICHI WILL STOP.

DON'T WORRY, SHŌ.

AHH!

JUST LEAVE IT TO US.

DON'T SWEAT T

YUP.

...DON'T WORRY. WE'LL GET THE NEXT ONE

FLOP

GOAL!

RAKUYŌ SCORES A PENALTY KICK.

HE DID IT! RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE!!

FOOO

SHH

Josui Rakuyō

① × ×
② ×
③

IT'S IN THE BAG!! NO WAY WE'LL LOSE.

FLUTER

CHATTER

IT'S HIM!

CHATTER

THANKS HE'S A ROCK STAR.

CAN'T TELL WHAT HE'S GONNA DO.

CRUNCH

DON'T WORRY THE NEXT ONE S

THAT'S WHY I DON'T LIKE PENALTY KICKS

THOOOMP

THAT'S ALL I CAN DO!

SLIP

REACH

WA HA HA!

YŪSUKE! NICE JOB!

CRUNCH

SHOOF

JOSUI SCORES!

I SHOULD BET. ON RIGHT. YES, THE *RIGHT!*

NO. IF I COMMIT TOO MUCH, IT'S DANGEROUS.

WHERE? WHERE WILL HE TARGET?

HM?

GLANCE

HE'S LOOKING AT THE LEFT?

NO!

IS HE GONNA TARGET THE LEFT?

STARE

GLARE

TOSU

HE'S DANGEROUS! IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM NO. 9.

SWISH

HE'S UNPREDICTABLE.

HOP

BUT I'M THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF RAKUYŌ. I CAN'T LET HIM BEAT ME!

STRETCH

PANIC

TAP

PIECE OF CAKE!

I'M A CHAMP!

DAICHI, STOP THIS SHOT!

DAICHI, YOU CAN DO IT!

	Josui	Rakuyō
①	×	×
②	×	
③		
④		

HE DID IT! WE'RE EVEN AGAIN!

YEAH! SHIGEKI!

HE MEANS TO LURE ME TO THE LEFT AND KICK TO THE RIGHT!

IT'S TOO OBVIOUS!

IT'S A TRICK!

BUT AGAIN, HE MIGHT BE ONE STEP AHEAD, AND KICK TO THE RIGHT...NO, WAIT. THE OPPOSITE COULD BE THE CASE TOO

STARE

NO MAYBE HE'S BETTING THAT I'D READ HIM THAT WAY THEN HE'LL KICK TO THE LEFT

STARE

SMIRK

IT'S THE LEFT!

LUNGE

SHOOM

SWAP

I TOLD YOU NOT TO LOOK AT THE KEEPER'S EYES WHEN YOU KICK! YOU CAN'T LET THE OPPONENT TAKE CONTROL!

YOU IDIOT!

JOLT

RAKUYŌ'S KICK FAILED!

WHOA.

I'M SORRY, BUT THE MVP AWARD IS MINE!

FINALLY. MY TURN!

SLAP

12

OKAY!

WE'RE TIED I MUST GET US INTO THE LEAD

HM-MM.

NO, IT'S NOT JUST THAT. WE'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD TO BEAT MUSASHINOMORI. ALL THAT EFFORT WILL BE WASTED

IF I DO, THE COACH WI

I'M NO. I CAN'T FAIL!

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

NO...

GLARE

DASH

I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN

LET IT ALL HANG OUT MASATO!

...

THERE'S A LOT OF PRESSURE ON HIM. HE'S NOT THAT GOOD A PLAYER. I'M NOT SURE IF HE CAN HANDLE IT.

IF NO. 12 MISSES, RAKUYŌ WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN. EVEN IF JOSUI'S KEEPER GETS A SAVE. IT'LL GO ON TO SUDDEN DEATH.

.SERIOUSLY, I THINK I CAN DO IT. DOES THIS MEAN I'VE MATURED?

I HAD THE YIPS A SECOND AGO, AND I COVERED IT UP WITH BIG TALK AND BLUSTER, BUT...

WE'RD. USUALLY, I'D BE SO NERVOUS N A SITUATION LIKE THIS, I'D WANNA RUN AWAY.

BUT SHŌ AND TATSUYA HAVE THE RIGHT TO DREAM.

JOSUI WANTING TO DEFEAT MUSASHINOMORI MUST SEEM LIKE A DREAM TO THE ONLOOKERS.

AND WE TOO WANT THE SAME DREAM TO COME TRUE.

THAT'S WHY I'LL MAKE IT!

YUP!

AND THEN, AFTER THAT, IT'LL BE THE REAL CHAMPIONSHIP. WITH MUSASHINOMORI!

WE'LL WIN THIS AND MOVE ON TO THE DISTRICT PRIMARY'S FINAL.

SHŌ.

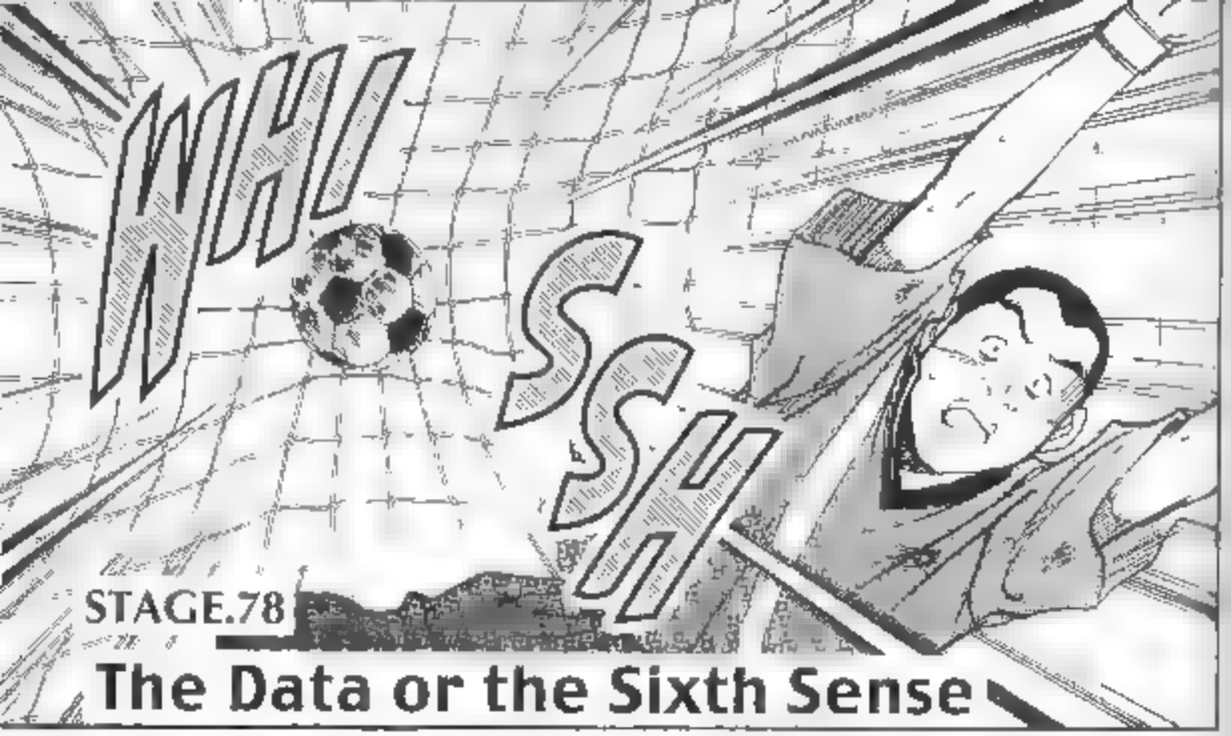
SLAP

	Josui	Rakuyō
①	×	×
②	×	○
③	○	○
④	○	×

OOH MY GOD!

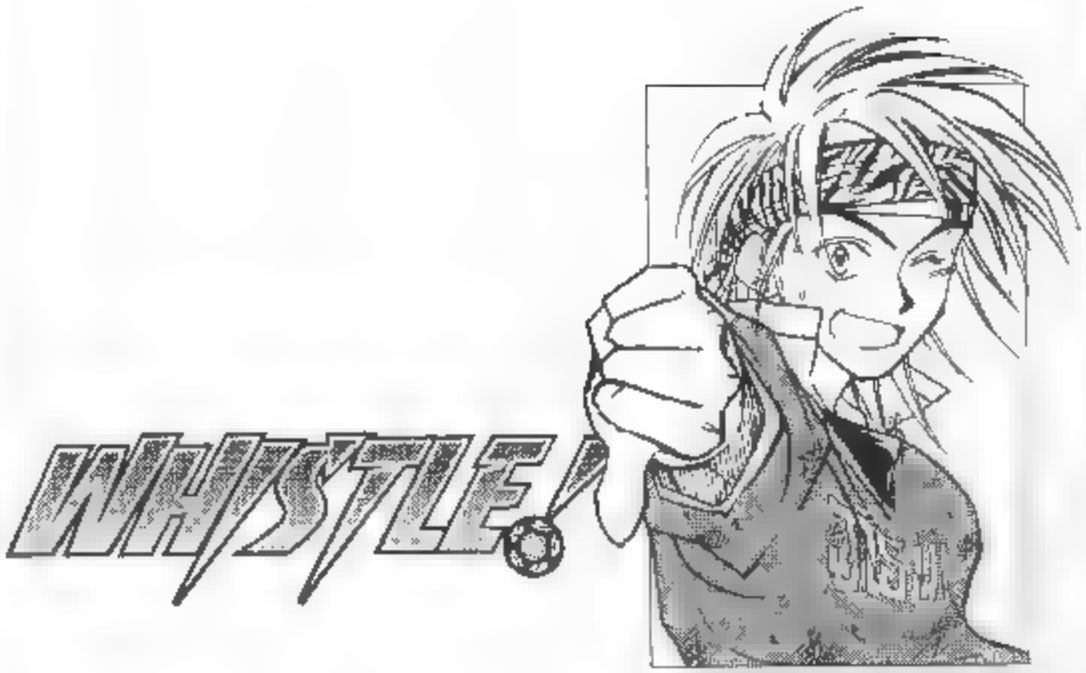
AND TAKE MY PLACE BESIDE THEM!

HM



STAGE.78

The Data or the Sixth Sense



STAGE.78

The Data or the Sixth Sense

YEAH, BABY!
HE DID IT! THE FIFTH KICKER! JOSUI IS IN THE LEAD!
MASATO!
DID YOU SEE? DID YA?
IF DAICHI CAN'T STOP THE BALL, WE'LL GO ON TO *SUDDEN DEATH.
...
IT'S STILL UP TO DAICHI.
I TOOK THE PRIZE! I'M THE MVP...
TOO BAD EVERY-ONE.

FROM THE SIXTH PENALTY KICK ON, THE WINNER CAN BE DECIDED BY EACH SINGLE TURN.

WILL THIS ATTEMPT END THE LONG GAME?

OR, WILL IT LEAD TO *SUDDEN DEATH?*

SHOOOOO

FREEZE

GULP

THERE'S SOMETHING I NOTICED ..

ISHI-MARU!

ISHI-MARU!

YOU CAN DO IT, ISHIMARU. MAKE IT!

..OR

SO, EITHER I'LL BE THE LAST ONE.

IN A WAY, IT'S A SORT OF GAMBLE, BUT...

...ABOUT WHEN JOSUI'S KEEPER CAN STOP IT AND WHEN HE CAN'T.

I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU!

IT'S YOUR KICK!

NOD

DO YOU MIND IF I TRY SOME-THING?

I BET RAKUYŌ IS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO MAKE THIS GOAL AND LEAD US TO SUDDEN DEATH.

I BELIEVE HE'S RIGHT-HANDED, AND ACCORDING TO THE DATA, HIS RATE OF SUCCESS IS OVERWHELMINGLY HIGH WHEN HE KICKS TOWARDS THE RIGHT INSTEAD OF THE LEFT

I, WHO RECEIVE THE KICK, MUST GO TO THE LEFT

CONCLUSION-- HE'LL USE THE RIGHT SIDE. . THE SURE BET FOR HIM TO MAKE THE GOAL

HOWEVER, HOW COME MY RIGHT SIDE BOTHERED ME THE MOMENT I DECIDED ON THE LEFT?

WHY IS MY RIGHT ARM TINGLING? NO! DON'T PAY ATTENTION. IT'S AN ABERRATION.

IT'S THE LEFT!

HE COULDN'T STOP IDE'S KICK. WHICH HAPPENED TO TURN INTO A FEINT...

HE STOPPED KURITA'S FAVORITE SHOT.

SETTING ASIDE THE FOURTH ONE, WHEN SHIGEMATSU LET HIM TAKE CONTROL, THIS GUY STOPPED TWO AND COULDN'T STOP TWO. WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE?

HOW WAS HE ABLE TO OUTWIT HIM?

IT'S BECAUSE HE JUMPED TO THE CAPTAIN'S FAVORITE SIDE, LEFT.

..AND THE CAPTAIN'S SHOT WHICH WENT STRAIGHT UP THE MIDDLE.

WHAT CAN I TELL FROM THAT?

HE'S STOPPING US BASED ON OUR STATS FROM PAST GAMES!

THAT'S WHY HE COULD STOP TYPICAL SHOTS BUT NOT UNUSUAL SHOTS.

THAT MEANS, I CAN GET THE GOAL IF I USE ***A STRATEGY HE WOULDN'T PREDICT.***

I'M RIGHT-HANDED! I TEND TO KICK TO THE RIGHT.

BUT THIS TIME, I'LL USE MY ***LEFT LEG*** AND KICK TO THE ***LEFT!***

JOSUI'S KEEPER STOPPED IT!

HE PUNCHED IT!

SOON

HOP

IT'S THE FIRST TIME MY BODY MOVED BEFORE MY BRAIN.

SO. *YOU FELT IT*. YOU KNOW THE SO-CALLED SIXTH SENSE.

I MEANT TO GO *LEFT*.

BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WENT RIGHT.

WAS THAT FUN?

SIXTH SENSE? YOU MEAN, INTUITION?

MAN! YOU STOLE THE GLORY!

THUD

WAS IT?

WEIRDO!

WHACK

AT THE END OF PENALTY KICKS IT'S THREE TO TWO. JOSUI DEFEATS RAKUYŌ!

ONE TO ONE.

Josui		Rakuyō
1	○	×
2	×	
3	○	
4		×
5		×

WE WON! WE DID IT!

NICE SAVE!

DAICHI!

ER, WELL...

WHAT'S WRONG?

SLAP

SCRATCH

WE TRIED JUST AS HARD AS YOU, BUT WE COULDN'T MATCH YOUR SPIRIT.

BECAUSE YOU GUYS SEEM TO ENJOY THE GAME MORE.

BREAKS MY HEART

GRIP

GOTCHA.

IF YOU LOSE BEFORE YOU PLAY MUSASHI-NOMORI, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!

THANK YOU!

BOW!

WE LOST COMPLETELY

THEY HAD LUCK ON THEIR SIDE.

OUR SKILL LEVELS ARE EVEN.

GOOD GAME.

WE PROBABLY COULDN'T HAVE BEATEN YOU GUYS

NO...

YOU GUYS JUST GOT LUCKY

GATHER

SWISH

WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

I GUESS THAT'S AN ACHIEVE-MENT FOR YOUR TEAM.

YOU FINALLY WON.

COACH KIRIHARA OF MUSASHI-NOMORI IS..

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHISPER

OLD JERK.

SHŌ.

IT'S BAD.

NO WAY! IS IT ABOUT THE SCHOOL TRANSFER THING?

SHUSH

SO I CAN SEE YOUR FACE WHEN WE WIN!

I HOPE *YOU* MAKE IT, TOO

THE WINS WILL KEEP GETTING TOUGHER.

THERE WILL BE MANY MORE POWERFUL TEAMS.

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY WE CAN'T DO IT?

COACH KURIHARA. .

IS IT REALLY YOU?

AND *IF* YOU MAKE IT TO THE FINALS, MY TEAM WILL *DESTROY* YOU.

IF THAT UPSETS YOU, WHY DON'T YOU KEEP ON WINNING?!

PLEASE LOOK AFTER MY SON.

MATSU-SHITA.

...HE'LL BE FINE.

OF COURSE ..

HE SHOULDN'T BE WANDERING AROUND AFTER HE FELL ILL.

IT'S NOT THAT ..

OH. YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE?

WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE WITH DEAR OLD DAD?

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? I REMEMBER THE OPPOSITE

DIDN'T EXPECT WE'D MEET AGAIN LIKE THIS.

YOU GAVE ME A REAL WORKING OVER A FEW TIMES BACK IN THE JAPAN LEAGUE.

NOD

LONG TIME NO SEE, MR. KIRIHARA.

MATSU-SHITA.

IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR TATSUYA TO PLAY FOR JOSUI THAN FOR MUSASHI-NOMORI..

BESIDES, THEY HAVE YOU, TOO.

YOU'VE GOT A GOOD TEAM. TODAY'S GAME CONVINCED ME OF THAT

AND THOSE KIDS WILL KEEP GETTING BETTER.

JUST LIKE YOU..

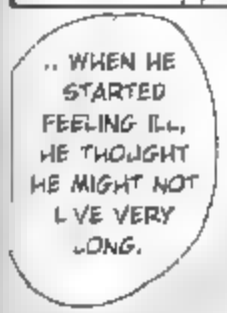
SURE.

ISN'T HE A GOOD PLAYER?

WA HA HA HA
THAT APPLIES TO YOU, TOO.
THAT TYRANT CAN'T BE STRAIGHT WITH ANYONE. CAN HE?

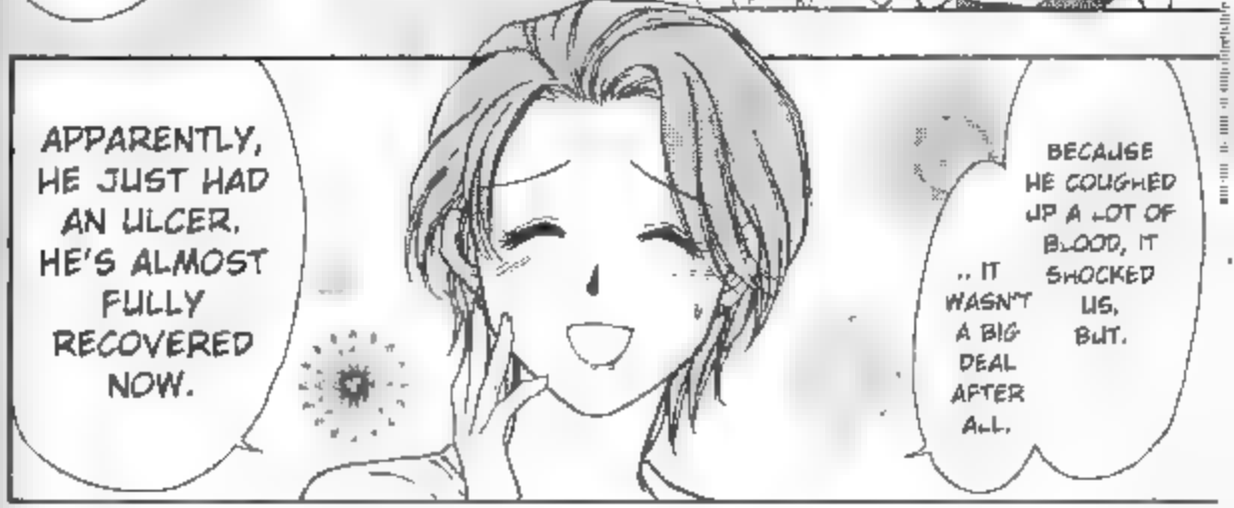
SORRY, SORRY.

GIGGLE
AS A MATTER OF FACT, TACCHAN..
MOM?


.. WHEN HE STARTED FEELING ILL, HE THOUGHT HE MIGHT NOT LIVE VERY LONG.

DAD WAS HASTY TO... I MEAN..

OH NO.
WANDERING AROUND AFTER HE FELL ILL!
THAT REMINDS ME... IS HE OKAY?
JERK


APPARENTLY, HE JUST HAD AN ULCER. HE'S ALMOST FULLY RECOVERED NOW.
.. IT WASN'T A BIG DEAL AFTER ALL.
BECAUSE HE COUGHED UP A LOT OF BLOOD, IT SHOCKED US, BUT.

HE WAS AS SPITE-FUL AS NORMAL, TOO
LOOK.. IT'S GOOD THAT T WASN'T SERIOUS.
GEEZ! THAT HYPO-CHONDRIAC
THANKS TO HIM, I HAD TO DEAL WITH THE WORST OF IT GETTING INTO A FIGHT AND BEING PUNCHED
MUTTER MUTTER
SEETHE SEETHE

JUST LIKE HE GATHERS WRINKLES BETWEEN HIS EYEBROWS ALL THE TIME. HIS STOMACH GETS WRINKLED UP, TOO
HE'S KIND OF A... DRAMA QUEEN!
WHAT ?!

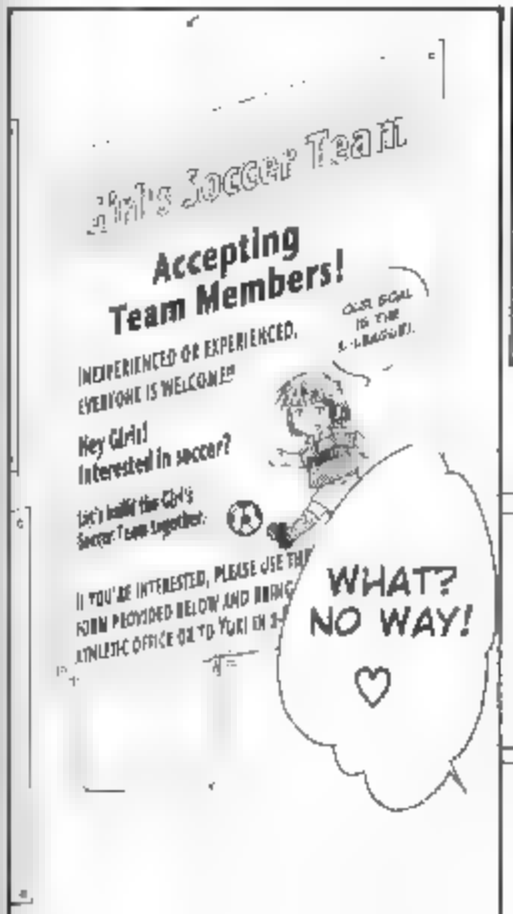
STAGE.79

Soccer Ball of Love and Youth

STAGE.79

Soccer Ball of Love and Youth

I'D BETTER SUPPLEMENT THE BANDAGES AND DRINK POWDERS BEFORE THE NEXT GAME, AND
SAKURA JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH
MANAGER OF THE BOYS SOCCER TEAM AND CAPTAIN OF THE GIRLS SOCCER TEAM.
YUK KOJIMA
SECOND YEAR, CLASS B, 13 YEARS OLD


Accepting Team Members!
INEXPERIENCED OR EXPERIENCED, EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!
Hey Girls! Interested in soccer?
Let's build the Girl's Soccer Team Together.
WHAT? NO WAY! ♡

WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?
YUK!♡
SHE ALSO HAS MANY ENEMIES
BECAUSE OF HER LOOKS, SHE HAS MANY FANS AT SCHOOL.
PLUS, EXAMS ARE COMING UP SOT A LOT TO DO.

REALLY ?!

THE APPLICANTS FOR THE TEAM ARE HERE

YES?

SNAP

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

THE APPLICATION FORMS WERE ALL GONE!

I SAY THE IMPACT OF THE WORLD CUP IS BIG.

HMM.

I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, YUKI

AH, I DON'T LIKE THAT.

EVEN IF GIRLS START A TEAM, THEY'LL JUST GET IN OUR WAY, AND THEY'RE LOUD, TOO.

YUKI.

YOU WENT HOME WITHOUT PERMISSION WHEN WE HAD THE GAME WITH RAKUYŌ.

OUUCH! YUT TA HUE DOEEN VYCCHO?

<WHAT'RE YOU DOING, PSYCHO?!>

WA OO ER AAN TA TAY ERE EN AIN?

<WHY WOULD I WANT TO STAY THERE IN THE RAIN?>

PINCH

EEEEK!

I BET THEY'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN JOINING SO THEY CAN BE CLOSER TO THE GUYS.

GRAB

I'VE NEVER PLAYED IT OR ANYTHING, BUT IT'S, LIKE, TOTALLY COOL, AND THAT'S WHY I'M JOINING. ♡

I'LL DO MY BEST. ♡

THEY'RE LYING. IF THAT'S THE WAY IT IS, I CAN'T BE UPSET WITH SANTA.

I, UM, LIKE SOCCER

AND THIS IS SUPER

I'M YUMI, A SECOND YEAR. ♡

WHERE?

WHAT?

AH, TATSUYA IS ABOUT TO KICK!

FIRST YEAR, MIYUKI SAKURAI.

NEXT.

IT'S TOTALLY OBVIOUS. THEY'RE JUST AFTER TATSUYA.

SQUEEEL! ♡

THIS IS YUKI, THE CAPTAIN OF GIRL'S SOCCER TEAM. IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW, PLEASE ASK HER.

...

HE'S LEAVING ALREADY?

UHHH, TATSUYA. ♡

THANKS

TAKE IT AWAY, YUKI

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO... BUT I WON'T LET YOU JOIN.

THAT'S BORING

WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THAT?

LOCKER EXPERIENCE?

WHAAT?!

AHEM

WELL, LET'S START WITH INTRODUCTIONS. TELL US WHY YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING, AND TALK ABOUT YOUR SOCCER EXPERIENCE

THANKS FOR COMING.

A TALL ONE!

...I'M GLAD I CAN PLAY WHILE I'M STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH.

I'VE PLAYED SOCCER BEFORE. I WAS GOING TO JOIN THE TEAM IN HIGH SCHOOL BUT...

NENE YOKOYAMA, THIRD YEAR.

JUST A SECOND!

FLIP FLIP

SO, THAT'S EVERYONE, I THINK.

MAIKO KAMIJO, SECOND YEAR.

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A LAUGH TO JOIN YOUR LITTLE TEAM!

...IT WAS VERY EXCITING.

AND I WATCHED THE WORLD CUP ON TV. I DON'T KNOW THE RULES OR OTHER DETAILS, BUT...

ER...I STARTED TO GET INTERESTED IN SOCCER AFTER I SAW, ER, *SOMEONE* HAVING SO MUCH FUN PLAYING T.

OH HOHO.

THANKS

NEXT PERSON, PLEASE

I DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE, BUT I WILL TRY MY BEST

BOW

AND THAT MADE ME WANT TO PLAY IT MYSELF THAT'S WHY I JOINED THE TEAM.

I LIKE YOUR HONESTY

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

TO BE FRANK, I JUST CAME HERE TO HANG WITH MIYUKI, BUT I USED TO PLAY SOCCER WITH MY YOUNGER BROTHER, SO I KNOW THE GAME.

I'M HER CLASS-MATE, SHIZUYO TODA.

SHIZUYO

SHRIEK. TATSUYA!

IDIOT.

MAIKO

DON'T BE UPSET MAIKO.

HOW INSULTING!

SHRIEK! SHRIEK! SO COOL! TATSUYA!

DON'T CRY, MAIKO.

PLEASE, MAIKO.

URRGH, I...CAN'T ...STAND ...IT.

SQUEEL SQUEEL

WAA WAA

SHOOOO

WHAM

NO THANKS.

I AM THE *IDOL* OF SAKURA JOSHI JUNIOR HIGH! *NOT YOU!!*

ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE, COWARD?

AND I WON'T STOP UNTIL THAT'S AS CLEAR AS BLACK AND WHITE

STOP TRYING TO SHOW ME UP. GIVE IT A REST.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

THUMP

.. CAN YOU ACTUALLY *PLAY* SOCCER?

WELL, I DON'T MIND TAKING YOU ON, BUT...

...

DASH

GOOD. . GOOD.

I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANY-MORE.

NO!

S-STOP IT!

OH, NOTHING.

TAP

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT, YUKI?

I BET ONLY THE UGLY ONES CAN PLAY

I HEARD THEY'RE CONDUCTING A QUALI-FICATION TEST

LOOKS LIKE THOSE GIRLS HAVE SOME ISSUES

M...

MIYUKI SAKURAI!

THUMP THUMP

WHAAT?

CAN'T BELIEVE THESE GIRLS.

WHINE

THAT'S COLD BLOODED!

WHINE

NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

OKAY! I'LL CONDUCT A QUALIFICATION TEST!

IF YOU DON'T PASS, YOU CAN'T JOIN THE TEAM.

UNLESS . YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE OF TATSUYA?

TITTER TITTER

IF YOU'RE HERE TO PLAY SOCCER, IT SHOULDN'T MATTER, RIGHT?

THEY'RE ALREADY GETTING DEFIANT

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR GIRLS TO PLAY SOCCER ANYWAY WHY CAN'T WE BE MANAGERS?

YEAH!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

HE *FARTED* LIKE TEN TIMES DURING PRACTICE, TOO.

MAYBE BECAUSE HE WORE THE *SAME UNDERWEAR* FOR THREE DAYS IN A ROW.

HEH HEH

AND HE MAKES A HILARIOUS FACE WHEN HE *DIGS FOR BOOGERS.*

TATSUYA WAS *SCRATCHING AT HIS BUTT CRACK* PRETTY HARD THE OTHER DAY

I JUST REMEMBERED

LET ME TRY!

I'LL DO MY BEST.

IT'S ...IT'S OKAY.

ER. . YUKI, EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY TEN TIMES, FOR THE BEGINNERS, IT'LL BE PRETTY HARD.

PLEASE FIND A SPOT.

THERE WILL BE NO TIME LIMIT

I'LL TRY IT, TOO!

NO IDEA.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE GIRLS?

START!

ZOOM

GLANCE

THUMP

IS SHE JOINING THE TEAM JUST TO BE NEAR SHŌ?

SHE'S LOOKING AT SHŌ!

BOOP

THE QUALIFICATION TEST INVOLVES JUGGLING

IF YOU CAN JUGGLE TEN TIMES OR MORE WITHOUT USING YOUR HANDS, YOU PASS

BIP

SON OF A

GRIP

OKAY!

PRACTICE!

WE'D BETTER WORK AS HARD AS THEY DO.

ONCE AGAIN.

TRY AGAIN.

FOUR ...

AH!

BOOM

AN HOUR LATER ...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

QUIT?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

YUP

YOU OKAY, MIYUKI?

I CAN'T *STAND IT!* IT'S ONLY TEN TIMES! WHY CAN'T *I DO IT?*

PANT

HUFF

SHIZUYO PASSES!

TEN!

NENE PASSES!

BIP

NINE

TEN!

ONCE AGAIN.

OKAY!

THREE!

BOUNCE

AH.

BIP

COACH SAID TO GIVE YOU THESE.

KEEP IT UP!

GOOD JOB!

I'LL GO AS LONG AS I CAN!

NOT UNTIL I BEAT YOU!

I WON'T QUIT!

YOU PASS!

HUH?

WHAT?

SO YOU PASSED!

I WANTED TO TEST HOW SERIOUS YOU ARE.

I NEED PEOPLE WHO ***WANT*** TO PLAY SOCCER..

WELCOME ...

WHAT? SOY MILK?

IT'S YUMMY

WOULD YOU LIKE ONE?

ER, YES

...TO JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH GIRL'S SOCCER TEAM!

STAGE.80
Students' Real Job...
I Know, But...

WHISTLE!

DOOO ♪

DOOBEE ♪

YUKO KATORI, ENGLISH TEACHER AND MONITOR OF SECOND YEAR CLASS A AT JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH, WAS IN A GREAT MOOD

G'MORNING.

GIGGLE GIGGLE

GOOD MORNING

THE REASON WAS SIMPLE. THE SOCCER TEAM, WHICH SHE WAS ALSO IN CHARGE OF, HAD BEEN WINNING.

MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?

IT'S HAKAMADA! ☆

MR. OKAMADA, PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE OF SECOND YEARS.

SPIN

AH, GOOD MORNING.

MS. KATORI!

HUH?

AFTER SCHOOL

C'MON, DO IT!

FIGHT!

EVERY-ONE!

PLEASE!

...AND HE'S JEALOUS OF THE SOCCER TEAM, BECAUSE WE KEEP WINNING.

...THE BASEBALL TEAM, WHICH MR. HAKAMADA COACHES, KEEPS LOSING...

LATER ON, ANOTHER TEACHER SECRETLY TOLD ME THAT...

WELL, ACTUALLY, MR. HAKAMADA HAD A WORD WITH ME JUST NOW

HE SAYS IT'S OKAY TO BE PASSIONATE ABOUT AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, BUT IT'S A PROBLEM IF THE STUDENTS NEGLECT ACADEMIC WORK, WHICH IS THEIR REAL JOB.

NO WAY.

Soccer Team

I COULDN'T HELP BOASTING.

...AND I...

I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, AND BECAUSE HE WAS SUCH A CONDESCENDING JERK, I GOT UPSET...

I DON'T KNOW.

GEEZ.

SOB HIC

WHAT SHOULD I DO, TATS-UYA?

I SAID, "THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH MY STUDENTS. IF THERE'S EVEN A SINGLE STUDENT WHO ENDS UP WITH A BELOW-AVERAGE GRADE, WE'LL GIVE UP THE GAME!"

. EVERY-ONE CAN DO THAT, RIGHT?

NOW THAT SHE'S ALREADY SAID IT, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO AND ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO GET ABOVE-AVERAGE GRADES.

PLEASE PROVE THAT I'M THE BETTER MAN!

CLAP

GET GOOD GRADES ON THE NEXT FINAL EXAM.

DON'T PICK ON HER.

SOB

MA'AM, YOU'RE A WOMAN AFTER ALL

IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?

WHAA

WE CAN'T.

WE'RE DONE FOR THE DAY.

HUH

SINCE WE HAD THE GAMES ON BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY LET'S TAKE TIME OFF TODAY AND TOMORROW

YOU GUYS ARE UNDER TOO MUCH PRESSURE

IT'S MORE EFFECTIVE TO HAVE FOCUSED, MEANINGFUL PRACTICES.

LONG HOURS OF PRACTICE WON'T NECESSARILY IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS.

WE SHOULDN'T CUT OUR PRACTICE TIME.

BUT THE NEXT GAME IS THE DISTRICT PRIMARY FINAL!

WE MIGHT EVEN END UP PLAYING KOKUBU SECONDARY WITH THAT RYOICHI GUY

DO YOUR BEST, GUYS.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR ANXIETY, BUT RESTING IS ALSO IMPORTANT IF YOU WANT TO PLAY WELL

TRY EXERCISING YOUR BRAINS TOO.

UUUMM

HEY.

SERIOUSLY I'M IN TROUBLE...

WHAT AM I GONNA DO? I WAS NAPPING DURING CLASS, AND I DIDN'T TAKE ANY NOTES.

GOSH, I WAS TOTALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE TOURNAMENT

FORGOT ALL ABOUT FINALS

SHE'S NOT VERY SMART.

MAIKO WAS REJECTED BY THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

WAA WAHH

SOB SOB SOB

WE'RE OKAY, RIGHT?

DOES THAT APPLY TO THE GIRL'S TEAM, TOO?

DON'T!

WHAA!

DOES HE HAVE ANY, UM, *MATURE* BOOKS OR VIDEOS?

CLICK

IS THIS YOUR BRO'S BEDROOM?

IT'S GOT SOME SERIOUS STYLE.

SWIP

WE'RE LIVE FROM SHŌ'S CRIB...

TODAY ON CELEBRITY DIRT, WE'RE GOING EXPOSE THE DIRTY SECRETS OF YOUR NEIGHBORS.

PENCIL CASE

OR, HEH, *MATURE* BOOKS?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY VIDEO GAMES?

SLIDE

SURPRISE, IT'S ALL ABOUT SOCCER.

THIS SHŌ'S BEDROOM?

GRIP

WHOA.

WE'RE HERE TO STUDY, FUNNY MAN.

STOP JOKING.

I GUESS I'D BETTER GO TO THE STORE.

NATURAL SPRING WATER.

WATER.

MILK TEA.

ICE COFFEE.

COLA.

I WANT A SPORTS DRINK

ME, TOO

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME-THING TO DRINK?

STOP SCREWING AROUND, AND DON'T SEARCH THE HOUSE.

IT'S JUST YOU AND YOUR BROTHER IN SUCH A LARGE PLACE?

LET'S TAKE A LITTLE LOOK AROUND ♪

AWE-SOME.

IT'S NICE.

OOH, IT'S A BIG ENTRANCE-WAY!

AS BIG AS MY BEDROOM.

HELLO!

COMIN' THROUGH!

CREAK CREAK

MY BROTHER IS REALLY SMART, THOUGH.

SEEMS LIKE IT I'M PRETTY AVERAGE.

YES, YES, YES.

STOP YAKKING ...AND STUDY!

..SOME PEOPLE END UP WITH ALL THE ROTTEN GENES.

WA HA HA HA

NOT FAIR IS IT? SOME PEOPLE GET TWO OR THREE STRENGTHS WHILE...

NOT AT ALL

BECAUSE
$0.2x - 1.4y = 5$
$, x + ' y = -1$
$y = 3$, THEREFORE
$x - 7 \times (3) = 25$
$x = 4$
THE ANSWER IS
$x = 4 \quad y = -3$

IS THAT CLEAR?

DA.CHI, I DON'T GET THIS PART.

WILL YOU TEACH ME?

HEY, SHŌ.

THANKS, HEH.

GREAT SUMMARIES REALLY EASY TO UNDER-STAND.

SHAD-DUP.

WHAT'S THAT MAGATO? HIERO-GLYPHICS?

SHŌ, HERE'S A COPY OF MY NOTES.

THANKS! ♡

THERE SN'T MUCH TO HIDE ANYWAY.

IT'S OKAY.

MASATO, KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF HIS BUSINESS!

WHAT DOES YOUR DAD DO? WHY DO YOU LIVE ALONE WITH YOUR BIG BRO?

DIDN'T TAKE AFTER HIM THERE, DID YA?

DON'T YOU HAVE TO BE SMART TO BE A JUDGE?

SO .YOUR SERIOUS AND, HEH, SLIGHTLY UPTIGHT PERSONALITY MUST COME FROM YOUR POPS THEN!

WHAAT?

DAD'S A JUDGE MOM ALSO WORKS IN THE COURTS, AND THEY'VE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE KYUSHU AREA, WHERE THEY LIVE NOW.

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

YOU'RE CROWD, SHIGEK

THAT'S RAD!

WHOA! WHAT IS THAT?!

...IT'S CRUEL TO TELL ME NOT TO WATCH.

WITH GREAT STUFF LIKE THIS HERE ...

DON'T DO THAT!

OF COURSE I DO. AND I KNOW THAT PEOPLE WHO AREN'T USED TO STUDYING CAN'T DO IT EVEN IF THEY TRY

LOOK ..

C'MON, YOU KNOW THE SITUATION WE'RE IN RIGHT NOW.

YOU MEAN, *CHEATING?*

CORRECT-A-MUNDO!

I'VE GOT AN ACE UP MY SLEEVE.

DON'T WORRY

...I DON'T GET HOW IT WORKS OUT LIKE THAT!

WHAT I MEAN IS...

W. WAIT A SEC.

LIKE I SAID,

$$\begin{aligned} x \quad 7y &= 25 \\ 3x + 8y &= 12, \text{ AND} \\ 3x - 21y &= 75 \\ -)\ 3x + 8y &= -12 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -29y &= 87 \\ y &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

THEREFORE, BY REPLACING IT, IT BECOMES

$$x - 7 \times (3) = 25$$
$$\times 4$$

I SEE.

BECAUSE I'M AN IDIOT.

WHY DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?

LISTENING DURING CLASS IS ENOUGH.

DAICHI, DON'T YOU STUDY AT ALL?

HEY, COME ON!

HE'S THE *CRUSHER* AFTER ALL

HE'S SO SARCASTIC.

WITH LOUSY TEACHERS, READING TEXTBOOKS WILL SUFFICE.

GOT THAT RIGHT

...DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW GUYS WITH BAD BRAINS FEEL.

GIVE IT UP, MASATO. AFTER ALL, GUYS WITH GOOD BRAINS

MATH II

GOOD.

WHEW

THAT PUP.

YEAH, FOR REAL.

I WON'T CHEAT. I WON'T

FOR REAL?

...GUILE IS IMPORTANT IN SOCCER, TOO.

WHEN DECEPTION BECOMES THE ONLY WAY TO WIN, I WONDER WHAT HE'LL DO.

H'S SINCERITY IS PART OF WHAT'S NICE ABOUT H.M, BJT

SHIGE ...

AWE-SOME! DID YOU SEE THAT?

WHOA!

LET'S STUDY TOGETHER, SHIGEKI.

YOU CAN'T CHEAT!

GLARE

CHEATING IS A RESPECT-ABLE TECHNIQUE, TOO

PEOPLE WHO ARE GOOD AT EXAMS AREN'T NECESSARILY SMART. EXAMS ARE JUST THERE TO HELP YOU POL.SH YOUR TEST-TAKING TECHNIQUE

OKAY, OKAY, I HEAR YOU.

ARGUE ALL YOU WANT, JUST DON'T DO IT.

LISTEN, PUP.

GEEZ, THIS KID.

STUDYING 5 FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE SCHOLARS, OR GET JOBS THAT REQUIRE A BRAIN.

IF YOU'RE GONNA GET AN ORDINARY JOB, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SKILLS ARE ENOUGH.

I CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY.

YEAH.

OHH!

THIS IS A KILLER MOVE RIGHT HERE

KEEP IT DOWN!

HEY! WE GOTTA STUDY...

YUP.

YOU'RE ALREADY HERE?

WEL-COME

WHY DO THEY HAVE TO HAVE EXAMS?

YEAH.

...I WANNA PLAY SOCCER.

READ THIS WAY

EVEN IF HE WAS IN GOOD CONDITION, I'M NOT SURE THAT WE COULD'VE WON.
RYOICHI WASN'T IN GREAT SHAPE, AND I'M SURE THAT WAS A FACTOR, BUT. .
IT WAS TOTAL DEFEAT THREE TO ZERO.
FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END. THE OPPONENT CONTROLLED THE GAME

9 NOBODY IS PERFECT (The End)

Peaceful Moment

Just as Expected

Even at a Time Like This

WHISTLE!

THEATRE

!!

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

I AM MAIKO KAMIJO, THE IDOL OF SAKURA JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH AND THE NUMBER ONE BEAUTY!!

MANGA BY **SEKI**, ASSISTANT'S

THIS IS WORK!! ASSISTANT S

ASSISTANT S: "SENSEI! I'VE FIXED THE DRAFT!!"

HIGUCHI: "FIXED IT? BUT WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?"

...WHAT ABOUT YOU?

SOUJŪ.

SAY...

BURBLE BURBLE

← OYASSAN

IS IT WRONG FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO DREAM OF BECOMING A SOCCER PLAYER?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

WHY CAN'T I...

...DO IT RIGHT?

MY LEFT ANKLE'S HURTING.

A LOT..

SHŌ.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I PRACTICE, IT WON'T CURVE.

END

■ IDEA ORIGINATES FROM VOLUME 4, STAGE.29, PAGE 10. CO-PRODUCED BY ASSISTANT T AND ASSISTANT S.

DOODLES

THESE ARE EARLY CHARACTER DESIGNS FOR SEIYA AND KATSURŌ THAT WERE ABANDONED. (*WHISTLE!* WAS ORIGINALLY TO BE ABOUT PROFESSIONAL SOCCER). THIS KATSURŌ LOOKS LIKE A GROWN-UP VERSION OF KATSURŌ OF *WHISTLE!*, BUT THE SEIYA OF *WHISTLE!* DOESN'T LOOK AS GREAT AS THIS ONE (HA HA!). AND ACTUALLY, KATSURŌ IS MODELED AFTER THE ACTOR TADANOBU ASANO.

MF

天野 優 - YŪICHI AMANO 22才 (22 YEARS OLD)

Sweet face and exceptional soccer talent. A star player of a leading team. Has a strong sense of pride and behaves like an honor student. On the other hand, you never know what he'll do when you're not looking.

(THE DARK SIDE OF YŪICHI)

Taciturn Keeper. There is much speculation about his retirement, but he won't quit. Currently, he is with the Naniwa Guts, which is the only team who would take him. He's played in the World Cup with Kirihara.

(KYAA KYAA)

NANIWA GUTS, KEEPER 難波ガッツ GK.

芝沢克郎 37才 (KATSURŌ SHIBUSAWA, 37 YEARS OLD)

THE REAL WHISTLE!

Director's Cut
The Rakuyō Game Complete Edition

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD: THE TRUE STORY OF HOW THE RAKUYŌ MATCH ACTUALLY ENDED. CAN YOU EVER READ VOL. 9 AGAIN AFTER WITNESSING THE HORRIFYING ***TRUE*** STORY?

OH NO!! THE GROUND HAS BECOME A DEADLY MUD PIT BECAUSE OF THE RAIN...!
BUT AT THE TIME, NO ONE REALIZED HE USED HIS HANDS.
"YEAH! I FOUND IT...!"
FINALLY, RAKUYŌ'S CAPTAIN PULLED THE BALL FROM THE MUDDY GROUND.

BY ASSISTANT ***AIKO MESO.***

WHISTLE!

AN EARLY STAGE SKETCH OF SHŌ. ▷

HIS HAIR STYLE IS A BIT DIFFERENT NOW.

QUESTION CORNER PART 2

Q3 : WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER?

A3 : WELL, THAT'S A TOUGH QUESTION. TO ME, THE CHARACTERS ARE LIKE MY OWN CHILDREN. TO BE HONEST, I CAN'T CHOOSE ONE. I THINK I LOVE MY CHARACTERS EVENLY, BUT MY FRIENDS SAY THAT THEY CAN TELL WHICH CHARACTERS I FAVOR MORE.

Q4 : DO YOU MODEL YOUR CHARACTERS AFTER SPECIFIC PEOPLE?

A4 : AT TIMES I DO. BECAUSE *WHISTLE!* IS A SOCCER MANGA, THERE ARE MANY CHARACTERS THAT APPEAR, AND I CAN'T APPROACH THEM ALL AS ORIGINAL CHARACTERS. SO I REFER TO MAGAZINE MODELS, IDOLS, CELEBRITIES AND MOVIE ACTORS. I BASICALLY SEARCH FOR FACES THAT MATCH THE GENERAL IMAGES I HAVE IN MIND, AND USE THEM AS REFERENCES. FOR EXAMPLE, OYASSAN IS MODELED AFTER TOMMY LEE JONES.

Q5 : EVERY STAGE HAS A PERFECT TITLE THAT MATCHES THE STORY, LIKE STAGE.66 "RESIDUE" AND STAGE.68 "TATSUYA GETS SMACKED BY A KARATE CHOP." HOW DO YOU COME UP WITH THEM?

A5 : I SUPPOSE AUTHORS USUALLY COME UP WITH TITLES, BUT I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT COMING UP WITH THEM MYSELF, SO I HAVE MY EDITOR IN CHARGE, MR. G (AND PREVIOUSLY, IT WAS MR. T), COME UP WITH THE TITLE FOR EACH CHAPTER. INCIDENTALLY, THE BLURBS ON THE TITLE PAGE OF THE MAGAZINE ARE ALSO THE WORK OF WHATEVER EDITOR IS IN CHARGE. UNTIL IT GETS PRINTED, EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL GO THERE. BUT TO BE HONEST, I ACTUALLY LOOK FORWARD TO FINDING OUT WHAT ENDS UP THERE. SOMETIMES IT MAKES ME LAUGH, AND SOMETIMES I THINK IT IS REALLY EXCELLENT. IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT THEY ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE BOOK. I WISH I COULD SHOW THEM TO YOU.

ANOTHER EARLY SKETCH. HE LOOKS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS HE DOES △ NOW. HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S FROM A JOHNNY'S JUNIOR BOY BAND (HA HA).

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BROTHERHOOD

Josui makes it to the district finals! When Shô and the others go to scout out their future opponent, the virtually unknown Hiba, they meet team captain Tsubasa Shiina. An informal game breaks out and the key players get to test out each other's mettle. Hiba's defense is strong—stronger than anything Josui's faced before. Does Josui have what it takes to become district champs?

Available March 2006!